

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 INT-08 SCEM-02 DRC-01

/158 W

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R 021750Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9043

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USNATO BRUSSELS 2455

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 6248

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRESS SEES THREAT TO EUROPEAN UNITY IN DUTCH  
OIL CRISIS

1. BELGIAN PRESS, ACROSS WIDE RANGE OF POLITICAL OPINION, IS  
FOCUSSING ON POTENTIAL POLITICAL IMPACT OF PETROLEUM SHORTAGES  
ON EUROPE. SOCIALIST LE PEUPLE CONCISELY POSES PROBLEM BY POIN-  
TING OUT THAT EUROPEANS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN AN "EVERYONE FOR HIM-  
SELF" ATTITUDE IN WHICH DUTCH PARTNER MUST SHIFT FOR HIMSELF,  
OR RUN RISK OF ARAB RETALIATION BY SHARING SUPPLIES WITH DTUCH.  
CATHOLIC LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, ON OTHER HAND, MAINTAINS THAT CHOICE  
NEED NOT BE SO DRAMATIC IF EUROPE WILL ADOPT COMMON POLITICAL  
POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST AND ASSUME ROLE IN SEEKING PEACE

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SETTLEMENT FAIR TO BOTH SIDES.

2. CHRISTIAN LABOR HET VOLK MOST DIRECTLY CONFRONTS QUESTION OF EFFECTS ON EUROPEAN UNITY BY WARNING THAT "NETHERLANDS HAS APPEALED TO EC SOLIDARITY. IF THIS SOLIDARITY DOES NOT PLAY ITS ROLE

AT SUCH A CRITICAL MOMENT, IF ALL EC COUNTRIES HORTSIGHTEDLY AND EXCLUSIVELY THINK OF THEIR OWN TEMPORARY AND IMMEDIATE INTERESTS, THEN THIS BOYCOTT CAN MEAN BEGINNING OF COLLAPSE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. NEEDLES TO ADD NATO ALLIANCE, AS A RESULT OF WESTERN EUROPEAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS AMERICAN DURING ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, IS IN NO BETTER POSITION THAN EC..."

3. INDEPENDENT LE SOIR EXPRESSES VIEW THAT EUROPEAN UNITY WAS SLIGHTLY STRENGTHENED BY FACT THAT EC-9 TOOK COMMON POSITION IN CALLING FOR NEGOTIATED MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, BUT NOTES THAT THEIR SOLIDARITY MAY BE PUT TO RUDE TEST BY PETROLEUM CRISIS. LE SOIR INDICATES IT IS STILL OPEN QUESTION AS TO WHETHER EUROPEAN STATES WILL BE ABLE TO SURMOUNT THEIR DIFFERENCES OR WHETHER EACH WILL MAINTAIN INDEPENDENTLY, TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE COMMON INTEREST, THAT IT WAS RIGHT.

4. CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN NOTES THAT IF EC DECIDES TO LIMIT PETROLEUM EXPORTS OUTSIDE COMMUNITY, THIS WILL BE TAKEN AS UNFRIENDLY ACT BY US, WHICH SHARED PETROLEUM WITH EUROPE DURING SUEZ CRISIS. PAPER ALSO CONCLUDES THAT ARAB BOYCOTT COULD SERVE AS MODEL FOR OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO WAGE RAW MATERIALS WAR AGAINST INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES.. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 02 NOV 1973  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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